

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A message brokering system for providing a publish/subscribe service for publisher and subscriber application programs, comprising:

~~means for receiving~~ a receiver configured to published messages from one or more publisher application programs;

~~means for forwarding~~ a transmitter configured to forward received messages to connected message brokering systems;

~~means~~ a selection module, responsive to a communication characteristic of an inter-broker communication link effective to communicate messages between the message brokering system and one of said connected message brokering systems, configured to select ~~for selecting~~ a message filtering policy which is appropriate for the communication characteristic; and

~~means for controlling~~ a filter module configured to control the forwarding of messages via the inter-broker communication link using the selected message filtering policy, ~~wherein~~

~~the means for selecting a message filter policy is separate from the publisher and subscriber application programs.~~

2. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 1, wherein the communication characteristic used to select a message filtering policy is a communication protocol provided by the communication link.

3. (Currently Amended) A message brokering system according to claim 1, further comprising a link module configured to

~~establish wherein establishing an~~ the inter-broker communication link; ~~includes:~~  
~~define defining~~ the communication characteristic for the communication link;  
~~compare comparing~~ the communication characteristic with a list of administrator-defined associations between communication characteristics and message filtering policies, to select a message filtering policy for the communication link; and  
~~store storing~~ an identification of the selected message filtering policy in association with the communication link.

4. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 1, wherein the communication characteristic used to select a message filtering policy includes a dynamic communication characteristic.

5. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 4, wherein the communication characteristic used to select a message filtering policy includes a measure of subscription activity.

6. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 4, wherein the communication characteristic used to select a message filtering policy includes a measure of redundant message transmissions.

7. (Currently Amended) A message brokering system according to claim 1, wherein

the filter module ~~means for controlling includes means for implementing~~ is configured to implement a broadcast messaging policy and ~~means for implementing~~ implement a proxy-subscription-based message filtering policy,

a respective one of the broadcast messaging policy and the proxy-subscription-based message filter policy ~~said means for implementing~~ being activated in response to said selection of a message filtering policy.

8. (Currently Amended) A message brokering system according to claim 7, wherein ~~the filter module said means for implementing a proxy-subscription-based messaging policy comprises: means for receiving~~ is configured to  
receive subscription information for connected message brokering systems; ~~and~~  
~~for storing~~  
store said subscription information for comparison with received published messages; and  
~~means for forwarding forward,~~ to connected message brokering systems,  
subscription information for subscriber application programs connected to the message brokering system.

9. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 7, wherein  
the broadcast messaging policy is implemented for links which provide a non-transactional messaging protocol and  
the proxy-subscription-based message filtering policy is implemented for links which provide a transactional messaging protocol.

10. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 1, wherein the selection of a message filtering policy is specific to a selected message topic or topic group.

11. (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising:

~~at least~~ a first and a second message broker, connected via one or more inter-broker communication links and configured to provide a publish/subscribe service for publisher and subscriber application programs;

~~means~~ a selection module, responsive to a communication characteristic of a communication link effective to communicate messages between the first and second message brokers, configured to select ~~for selecting~~ a message filtering policy which is appropriate for the communication characteristic; and

~~means for controlling~~ a filter module configured to control the transmission of the messages via the ~~inter-broker~~ communication link using the selected message filtering policy; ~~wherein~~

~~the means for selecting a message filter policy is separate from the publisher and subscriber application programs.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A data processing system according to claim 11, wherein ~~said~~ ~~means for selecting a message filtering policy is adapted~~ the selection module is configured to select one of a plurality of different policies in response to characteristics of a received message.

13. (Currently Amended) A data processing system according to claim 12, wherein ~~the means for selecting a message filtering policy is adapted~~ the selection module is configured to select one of a plurality of different policies in response to a topic identifier within a received message.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer program product having a machine-reachable recording medium having recorded thereon a program code for providing a publish/subscribe brokering service for publisher and subscriber application programs, ~~comprising program code recorded on a machine-readable recording medium, the program code comprising the program code comprising a routine set of instructions which when executed by a message brokering system causes the message brokering system to perform the steps of:~~

~~means for~~ receiving published messages from one or more publisher application programs;

~~means for~~ forwarding received messages to connected message brokering systems;

~~means,~~ responsive to a communication characteristic of an inter-broker communication link effective to communicate messages between the message brokering system and one of said connected message brokering systems, ~~for~~ selecting a message filtering policy which is appropriate for the communication characteristic; and

~~means for~~ controlling the forwarding of messages via the inter-broker communication link using the selected message filtering policy; ~~wherein~~

~~the means for selecting a message filter policy is separate from the publisher and subscriber application programs.~~

Claim 15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of configuring a message brokering system for efficient inter-broker communications in a multi-broker publish/subscribe environment in which publishers publish messages via message brokers and subscribers register with message brokers to receive published messages, the method comprising:

responsive to a communication characteristic for a communication link effective to communicate messages between the message brokering system and another message brokering system, selecting a message filtering policy according to the determined communication characteristic; and

controlling the transmission of messages via the communication link using the selected message filtering policy.